

Weekly Sentinel.

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SPANN & NORMAN, J.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

"Central Dictation."

We do not propose to get angry or call hard names because a few of our Democratic

contemporaries and their correspondents have

been fit to regard with suspicion an article

which appeared in the Sentinel some two

weeks since in relation to the approaching

State Convention. In that article, it may be

remembered, we said it was possible that the

editor might adopt some other title

than that recommended by the

State Central Committee, and that there

fore it might be well enough for the counties

in appointing delegates not to strictly confine

themselves to the number fixed upon by the

Committee. In this article the editor of the

Lafayette American thinks he describes a

man's next attempt at "central dictation"

and proceeds to read us a lecture as to

the jealousy which our Democratic friends

in other portions of the State regard

movements at the Capital—the influence of

selfish "cliques," &c., &c.; all of which we

wake take to heart and endeavor to profit by.

But, as to the article in question, we plead

"not guilty" to the charge set forth by the

American. That article was written by the

principal editor of the Sentinel (who, by the

way, is not a citizen of the capital, but of a

county on the extreme border of the

State) without the suggestion, solicitation,

or knowledge of any one, resident here or

elsewhere. Now, what are the facts in the

case? The members of State Central Com-

mittee, who made this ratio of representa-

tion—of which we make no complaint, and

consider it entirely fair and equitable—are

mostly residents of the capital, and are con-

sequently more liable to the charge of "central

dictation" than we, who are a comparative

stranger here. Again, Marion county, the

seat of the so-called "central dictation,"

appointed the number of delegates fixed by

the State Committee, (just as Tippecanoe did,

and as the editor of the American thinks

was just and proper) while our county and

most of the other remote counties either

conferred the power of acting as delegates

upon all who might see proper to attend the

Convention, or else appointed a number twice

or thrice as large as the number of votes they

would be entitled to under the ratio adopted

by the committee.

"Central dictation," and all other kinds of

"dictation," is the very thing we want to

avoided. Had we in Indiana a compact town

or township organization, as in New York—

from which State leaders are often

drawn, such a thing as a "central dictation"

which takes place in a strictly delegated

Convention might be practicable. But we

have not. A very small proportion of the

Democrats of a county meet at the seat of

justice after a few days notice and appoint

delegates to the State Convention. To say that

Clark County.

The Democracy of Clark assembled in con-

vention at Charlestown on the 29th inst., for

the purpose of appointing delegates to the

State Convention. D. M. Daily was called

to the chair, and C. P. Ferguson and A. J.

Work appointed Secretaries.

On motion all Democrats from Clark pres-

ent at the State Convention were authorized

to act as delegates. Judge Levering from

the committee on resolutions, reported a se-

ries, which were adopted:

They denounce Know Nothingism; ap-

prove the Nebraska bill; endorse the adminis-

tration of President Pierce; approve the course

of the Democratic members of Congress who

stand by Richardson in the contest for Speak-

er; speak in high terms of Hon. W. H. English,

member of Congress from the second district;

express a preference for Hon. J. D. Bright for

President; endorse the administration of

Gov. Wright, and speak in high terms of the

manner in which Lieut. Gov. Willard has

discharged his official duties.

The Democrats of Allen held their county

convention at Fort Wayne on the 29th ult.

Pliny Hoagland was called to the chair, and

C. E. Sturgis appointed Secretary. Delegates

having been appointed to the State Conven-

tion, a series of resolutions were offered by

Judge Borden, and adopted by the meeting.

They reaffirm in general terms, the distin-

guishing principles of the Democratic party;

deny the power of Congress to establish or

prohibit slavery; endorse the principles of the

Kansas-Nebraska bill; affirm the right of

all new States to come into the Union on the

same footing as the original States; discard

all distinctions on account of birth or reli-

gion; deploring the evils of intemperance,

but condemning the prohibitory liquor law

of the last Legislature; and, finally, expressing

gratification at the election of Hon. Jesse D.

Bright as President of the Senate, expressing

confidence in his integrity and ability, and

avowing a preference for him as the next

Democratic nominee for President.

[Correspondence of the State Sentinel.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, 1855.

Editors Sentinel:—The attempt of the Fu-

sionists to apply the gag law, in its most ob-

noxious features, met with a signal rebuke

Monday. It will be recalled that last

week, on the motion of a Democratic mem-

ber, the time of debating any proposition was

limited to ten minutes. This certainly was

more than could in justice have been ex-

pected. Had we in Indiana a compact town

or township organization, as in New York—

from which State leaders are often

drawn, such a thing as a "central dictation"

which takes place in a strictly delegated

Convention might be practicable. But we

have not. A very small proportion of the

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Letter from the North.

[Correspondence of the State Sentinel.]

St. Joseph Co., Dec. 26, 1855.

Editors:—Since I last had the

pleasure of writing to the office of the Sen-

tinel, there has been a change in its con-

ductors. The new editors, however, are not

strangers to me, and I suppose there can be

no impropriety in my indulging in an oc-

casional outbreak of what some call "eccen-

tricity." I am not positive as to the liter-

ary meaning of this exotic, because I have not

studied Latin, nor have I ever seen the in-

side of a college; but I think to me to be

equivalent to saying the *code of a scold*.

That form of expression, you know, is con-

stantly used by the editors of the Sentinel to

look too common-place to go into the fine

composition of the present day, and hence

if we would consult public taste we must

discard the usage of our old-fashioned

literature. For very plain old-fash-

ioned terms which our daddies used, and

which really conveyed ideas intelligibly,

modern style has patented a sort of *hash*

Latin and French that plentifully inter-

jects what would otherwise be very ordinary

productions. This is done, no doubt, by

many writers from the same motives charged

upon the never-to-be-forgotten knight of La

Marche, by his equally immortal Square,

when the Don corrected Sancho for the use

of an improper word, the meaning of which

he did not know, and I should annex it

to any word of our own, I should annex it

at once, naturalize it, and give it upon its

adoption into the Anglo-American family—

not to be treated as the *invidious* party that

other foreigners, with marks of quotation, or

italics, so that such a citizen could not

walk abroad into the field of politics, or of

letters, without being insultingly reminded

of his foreign origin. I would not, however,

be in line with his new relations, and mark

it neither before, behind, or at bottom, in

such a way as to attract attention to the fact

that it was a stranger. And why would not this

be? Words are intended to convey ideas

(not in a diplomatic sense, I admit) and

when a combination of letters answers our

purpose, that combination is, of right,

and it belongs to our linguistic system, and

truly as though it were the first word our

necessities compelled us to utter. So, any

citizen of another country, if he fits our in-

terests, and voluntarily consents to be

transferred to our vineyard to become a

laborer in his support, he is emphatically one

of us, and should be marked by no appella-

tion to distinguish him from the American

citizen.

While the native-born should forever be

kept up these distinctions which are often

unpleasant and prejudicial to our adopted

citizens, the latter can do much to prevent

the class separations which are too common

in our country. I confess to a large share

of pride when I compare the onward march

of the American people to that of the

European. I confess to a large share of

pride when I compare the onward march

did with the long travellers; chop them off

at the joints.

There may be a necessity for voluminous

State papers, but so long as the Treasury

is robbed to publish them, such matter for

distribution under the hand of a citizen who

has accidentally, and often unmeritedly got

a position above and beyond the operation of

general P. O. requirements, I would not

trouble myself to print verbatim that which

every one can see for himself, and which

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